

NOAA Fisheries Announces Sea Turtle Handling and Release Workshops

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) will hold voluntary workshops on the proper use of sea turtle handling and release equipment and on the current regulations in place for the pelagic longline fishery. The techniques that will be demonstrated at the workshops are required by fishermen using pelagic longline gear and will greatly increase the chance of sea turtle survival. At the workshops participants will have a chance to use the equipment and ask questions.

A new sea turtle bycatch reduction rule was published by NOAA Fisheries on July 6, 2004. Among other things, the rule requires that all vessel operators participating in the pelagic longline fishery must use new release equipment and handling techniques that will be outlined in the workshops. Although the workshops are voluntary, all pelagic longline fishermen are strongly encouraged to attend. Proper use of release equipment and handling techniques are important aspects of sea turtle conservation efforts in this fishery.

The workshops are designed for permit holders, vessel operators, and crew members who use pelagic longline gear in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Other interested parties are also welcome to attend. There are a variety of dates and locations for these workshops (see attached table).

This FAX notice is a courtesy to highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries interests to keep you informed about your fisheries. For further information regarding the workshops, contact Charlie Bergmann at (228) 762-4591 or (228) 623-0748. For further information regarding HMS fisheries and regulations, contact the HMS Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

For more information on Atlantic highly migratory species and the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery can be found at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms>.

Alan D. Risenhoover for
John H. Dunnigan
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

July 20, 2004
Date

Locations and Times for Sea Turtle Handling and Release Workshops

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
<u>July 27, 2004</u>	<u>Steven Le Seafood</u> <u>8893 Shrimpers Row</u> <u>Dulac, LA 70353</u>	<u>11:00am to 2:00pm</u>
<u>July 28, 2004</u>	<u>LaRose Civic Center</u> <u>307 East 5th St.</u> <u>Larose, LA 70373</u>	<u>10:00am to 2:30pm</u>
<u>July 29, 2004</u>	<u>NMFS Laboratory</u> <u>3500 Delwood Beach Dr.</u> <u>Panama City, FL 32408</u>	<u>4:00pm to 7:00pm</u>
<u>August 16, 2004</u>	<u>Pompano Beach Civic Center</u> <u>1801 NE 6th St.</u> <u>Pompano Beach, FL 33060</u>	<u>10:00am to 1:00pm</u>
<u>August 17, 2004</u>	<u>Ft. Pierce Hurricane House</u> <u>8400 Picos Rd.</u> <u>Ft Pierce, FL 34945</u>	<u>9:00am to 12:00pm</u>
<u>August 18, 2004</u>	<u>USCG Training Center</u> <u>1050 Register St.</u> <u>Charleston, SC 29405</u>	<u>1:00pm to 4:00pm</u>
<u>August 19, 2004</u>	<u>Etheridge Seafood</u> <u>4561 Mill Landing Rd.</u> <u>Wanchese, NC 27981</u>	<u>10:00am to 2:00pm</u>
<u>September 13, 2004</u>	<u>Barnegat Light Fire Hall</u> <u>10th St. & Central</u> <u>Barnegat Light, NJ 24943</u>	<u>10:00am to 2:00pm</u>
<u>September 14, 2004</u>	<u>New York State Department of</u> <u>Environmental Conservation</u> <u>205 Bellmead Rd.</u> <u>East Setauket, NY 11733</u>	<u>10:00am to 2:00pm</u>
<u>September 16, 2004</u>	<u>Narragansett NOAA Lab</u> <u>28 Tarewell Dr.</u> <u>Narragansett, RI 22882</u>	<u>4:00pm to 7:00pm</u>
<u>September 17, 2004</u>	<u>MacCleans Seafood</u> <u>10 North Front St.</u> <u>New Bedford, MA 02740</u>	<u>10:00pm to 2:00pm</u>

